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(54) **High dynamic range error rate monitor**

(57) There is provided an error rate monitor (10) incorporating a counter (30) which is incremented as errors are detected in a data stream passing through an interface unit (20) connected to the counter (30). The counter (30) is also simultaneously decremented at a rate proportional to an exponential of a value presently

stored in the counter (30). The monitor (10) thereby provides from the value stored in the counter (30) a measure of error rate in the data stream, the value substantially proportional to a logarithm of error rate in the data stream, thereby providing the monitor (10) with a relatively large error rate monitoring dynamic range.

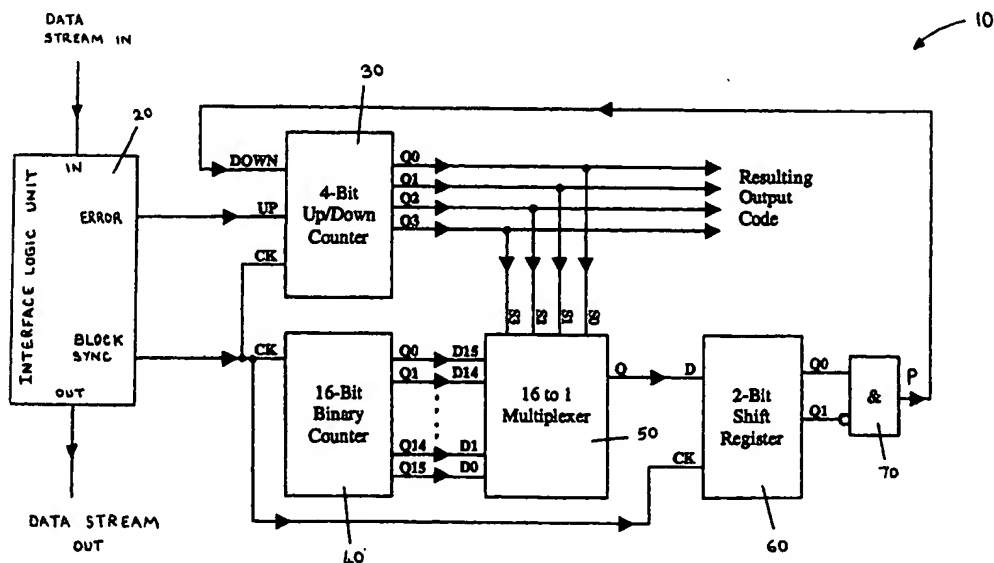


Fig. 1



European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 9891

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 February 2004	Examiner Stolte, N
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82